Claims 1-15 are in the case. Applicant has added Figure 9. Applicant has also

amended the specification to correct typographical and clerical errors and added

description of Figure 9 in accordance with the addition of the Figure. Claims 1-15 have

been amended to correct informalities and improve claiming language and structure in

accordance with the USPTO practice. Support for Figure 9 can be found at page 5, lines

4-5, page 11, lines 4-10, and Figure 1 in the specification as originally filed. No new

matter has been introduced.

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the "Notice of References Cited" (form PTO-

892) and the attached references.

The following documents accompany this response:

(i) Petition for Extension of Time,

(ii) Inventor's Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.131,

(iii) Exhibit 1, Invention Record Approval Document, and

(iv) Declaration and Power of Attorney.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of

the following remarks/arguments:

Oath/Declaration

The examiner's action indicated that the oath or declaration was defective and

untimely, and required submission of an updated oath or declaration.

In response, Applicant submits herewith an updated Declaration and Power of

Attorney recently executed by the inventor. Thus, the requirement has been fulfilled.

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Drawings

The drawing was objected to as omitting a claimed feature, the gas generator in the housing as set forth in claim 12.

In response, Applicant has added Figure 9 which shows the claimed feature of a gas generator 14' in the housing. Applicant requests the approval of the addition, as the figure is supported by page 5, lines 4-5, page 11, lines 4-10, and Figure 1 in the specification as originally filed. Then, the objection is believed to be overcome.

Specification

The specification was objected to because of informalities.

In response, Applicant has amended the specification to correct the informalities.

Thus, the objections have been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S. C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In response, Applicant has amended claims 1-15 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention.

The examiner's action stated that "it is not clear what 'concertina-style' encompasses." In response, Applicant would like to cite the definition, at page 288 of the American Heritary Collegiate Dictionary, third edition, of concertina as "a small hexagonal accordion with bellows and with buttons for keys." A copy of the definition from the Dictionary is enclosed. As disclosed at page 9, lines 8-11 and Figures 5 and 6 of the specification, it is illustrated that the concertina-style side wall is an accordion-like

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side wall when relaxed and folded which stretches to fully expanded vertically side wall when the housing is inflated.

The examiner's action stated that claim 14 was repetitive of limitation of claim 1.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 1 recites that the upper cover is substantially rigid but is silent on the base, while claim 14 recites that the base is substantially rigid.

Thus, claim 14 is not repetitive of the limitation of claim 1.

The examiner's action stated that claim 15 was "inaccurate because the specification did not disclose the peripheral region of the base as deformable." Applicant respectfully disagrees. As disclosed, for example at page 5, line 6-7 of the specification, "the base has a deformable peripheral region."

Thus, the rejections are overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 5, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kowalski, U.S. Patent No. 6,158,766 (the Kowalski reference).

In response, Applicant submits herewith a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 by the sole inventor of the subject application, Pontus Söderström, with supporting documentary evidence, to antedate the Kowalski reference.

The Declaration establishes that the date of invention for the subject application is prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the Kowalski reference, February 26, 1999. The conception of the invention occurred prior to February 26, 1999, and the inventor had exercised due diligence from a time prior to February 26, 1999 until June 18, 1999, the date of constructive reduction to practice, when the British priority application of the

subject application was filed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Kowalski is not a legally available reference with respect to the subject application.

Additionally, in the process of preparing this response, it was noticed for the first time that the invention was made in the United States and that the UK priority application was filed without the benefit of a foreign filing license. Applicant is therefore taking the necessary steps to timely cure the deficiency by filing a Petition for Retroactive Foreign Filing License which follows this response.

Therefore, Applicant submits that all the requirements for antedating the reference have been satisfied and the rejections based on the Kowalski reference should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 2 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kowalski reference; claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kowalski reference in view of German Published Application 19727598; claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kowalski reference in view of the German publication and UK Patent 2,272,670; claims 6-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kowalski reference in view of Haland et al.; claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kowalski reference in view of Boydston et al.

In response, Applicant submits that as discussed, *supra*, Applicant has antedated the primary reference, the Kowalski reference, by the inventor's 131 Declaration and the supporting document. Thus, Applicant requests that these rejections based on the

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Kowalski reference in combination with the other references be withdrawn, as the

Kowalski reference is no longer a legally available reference against the subject

application.

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been overcome and claims

1-15 as amended are in condition for allowance, early notice of which is requested.

A check in the amount of \$950 for petition for extension of time is enclosed.

Should any other fee be required, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 22-0261

and notify Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 26, 2004

Catherine M. Voorhees (Reg. No. 33,074)

Venable LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Tel.: 202-344-4000

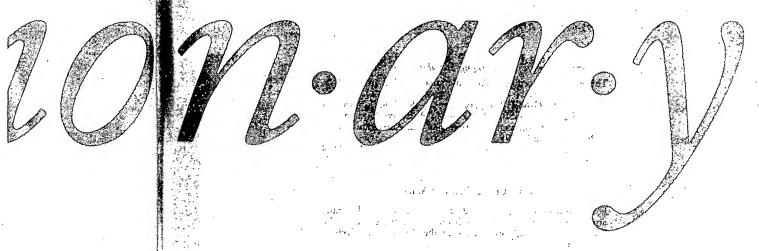
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288 concenter: conciliate 🖘

con · cen · ter (kon-sen / tor, kon-) tr. & intr.v. - tered, -ter · ing. ters. To direct toward or come together at a common center. [Prob. Italiconcentrare or Fr. concentrer : both < Lat. com-, com-++, Lat. centrum, center; see CENTER.] .- n + 1 - 2015.3 con-cen-trate (kön'sən-trāt') v. -trat-ed. -trat-ing.-trates. tr. 1.a. To direct or draw toward a common center; focus. bi. To bring into one main body. 2. To make (a solution or mixture) less dilute. — intr. 1.a. To converge toward or meet in a common center. b. To increase by degree; gather. 2. To direct, one's thoughts or attention: concentrated on the task.

—n.'Aiproduct that has been concentrated, esp. a food that has been reduced in volume or bulk by the removal of liquid. [< concentral] — con'cen-traltive adj. — con'cen-trals; tive-ly adv. — con'cen-tra'tor n. 5.34 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 5 con-cen-tra-tion (kön'sən-trals hən), n. 1. a. The act or procentrals have been con-cen-tra-tion (kön'sən-trals hən), n. 1. a. The act or procentrals have been con-cen-tra-tion (kön'sən-trals hən). ess of concentrating, esp. the fixing of close, undivided attention. b: The condition of being concentrated. 2. Something that has been concentrated. 3. Chem. The amount of asspections of the condition of being concentrated. ified substance in a unit amount of another substance. concentration camp n.A.Camp where prisoners of war, enemy, aliens, and political prisoners are detained and confined, typ-Sand Marchine ically under harsh conditions: con cen tric (kan-sen trik) also con cen tri cal (-tri-kal) adj Having a common center. [ME-concentrics | Med Lat. con-centricus : Lat. com-, com.; +, Lat. centrum, center; see CEN-TER.] - con: cen'tri: cal: ly adv. - con'cen tric! i ty (kon!sen-tris/1-te), no programment of resito and the fedition of con cep clon (kan-sep/se-on/, --sep/shan, kon/sep-syon/). A city, of W-central Chile near the Pacifics coast SSW of Santiago; tounded 1550: Pop. 267,891. www. series series con-cept (kön'sept') m. 1. A general idea derived or inferred in the mind, a thought or notion. See Syns at idea: 3.: Usage Problem: A scheme; a plan: [LLat. conceptus.] of concipere, to conceive. See CONCEIVE. Usage Note: In fields, such as entertainment and; advertising concept is often used loosely to mean "a scheme, plan," as in The studio liked the concept for the new game show. Perhaps this usage sounds most at home in these industries. con cep ta cle (kan-sep ta-kal):n. A hollow chamber containing reproductive structures that appears on the surface of receptacles in certain algae and fungi., [Lat. conceptaculum, re-ceptacle; <, conceptus, p.part. of concipere, to conceive. See wisconias martin arts con • cep • tion (kən-sep • shən) n. 1.a. Formation of a viable zygote by the union of the sperm and the ovum; regrilization.

b. The entity formed by the union of the sperm and the ovum; an embryo or a zygote. Z.a. The ability to form or understand mental concepts and abstractions. b. Something conceived in the mind; a concept; plan, design, idea, or thought. See Syns at Idea. 3. Archaic. A beginning; a start. [ME concepcioun < OFt.:conception < Lat. conceptio, conception- < conceptus. See. CONCEPT.] — con-cep/thon-al, adj. — con-cep/thve adj. con-cep-tu-al (kon-sep/choo-al) adj. Of concepts, or concep-tion. [Med.Lat. conceptualis < LLat. conceptus, a thought. See concept.] — con·cept tu·al·ly adv.so.sign.4 in 100088 conceptual art; m. Art; that is intended to convey an idea or a concept and that may not involve the creation or appreciation of a traditional art objection conceptual artist in S to conceptual ar no external or substantial reality. — con-cep/tu-al-lst n. con: cep'tu-al: is! tic: adj. ... & sh. ... (1999) at al (1909) con: cep-tu-al: ize (kən-sep/chōo-ə-liz!), v. -lzed, -lz-ing, -lzes. a- tr. To form a concept or concepts of, esp. to interpret sin; a conceptual way: — mtr. To form concepts: — con: cep/-tu-al-1:za/tion (-sep/choo-bli-za/shan); n=; —,con-cep/tuyal·k/er/ni/eponis e o sense of the introde a constant con·cep·tus (kon-sep/tus) n. The product of conception at any point between-fertilization, and birth/[[Lat., something.conccived. See concert. (c) 1995 (c) 2399 (c) 1982 (239) (c) con-cern (kan-sûrn!).v. -cerned, -cern-ing. -cerns. (r) 1. To have to do with or relate to. 2. To be of interest or importance to: This problem concerns all of us. 3. To engage the attention of; involve concerned ourselves, with the task. 4. To cause anxiety or uneasiness in. — intr. Obsolete: To be of importance of n. 1. A matter that relates to or affects one. 2. Regard for or interest in someone or something 3. A troubled or anxious attactof mind arising from solicitude or interest. See Syns at anxiety. 4. A business establishment on enterprise; a firm 5. A contrivance; a gadget. [ME.concerner. < OFr. concerner. < Med. Lat. concerner. < Llat.; to mingle together is latticom. corned (kan-shridt) add A. Interested and involved to the concerned of the mindle of the concerned of the con : cerned (kon-sûrnd) adj: 1: Interested and involved. 2. Anxious; troubled. con: cern: ing:(kan-sûr!ning) prep::In reference to: See:Usage Note at participle, size an interest of the concern ment/(kan-sûrn/mant) not A matter that is of con-

cern. 2: Reference; relation, or importance. 3. Anxiety; worry. con-cert; (kon/sûrt/; -sort);n. 1: Mus. A performance given by

one or more singers or instrumentalists or both: 2.a. Agreement in purpose; feeling, or action: b. Unity achieved by mu-

tual communication of views, ideas, and opinion concert. c. Concerted action. 1 = v. (kan-sûrt) (ker-sûrt) (ker-sû agreement. Z. To adjust; settle intra To act to armony. [Fr. | Ital concerto. | Oltal agreement, his poss. . LLat. concertus, p.part. of concernere, toffi gether. See CONCERN.].
con cert ed (kan-sûr/nid) adj. 1. Planned or accompliance gether; combined: a concerted effort. 2. Muss Ari parts: for voices or instruments. — con-cert/ed-by concert grand n. Mus. The largest grand piano, being 2.7 meters (9 feet) in length and having the volume conceretiona (kön/sər-tē/nə) n. Mus. A small hexand cordion with bellows and with buttons for keys for Ital. .ima, fem.; dim., suff.] in first strain and full concernt! no: (kön; chēr, tēč, no) in., pl., nos. .ims, the concerto. 2. The solo instrument group in a concerto [Ital.; dim. of concerto; concert. See concert.] con cer tize (kon sər-tiz!) intr.v. i-tized tizelng Mus. To give concerts or perform in concerts con-cert mas ter (kon/sert-mas/ter) n. Mus. The mas ter (kon/sert-mas/ter) n. Mus. linist and assistant conductor in a symphony orch con cert mis tress (kon sərt-mis tris) n. Mus A. first violinist and assistant conductor in a symple tra. de con cereto (kan-chereto) m. pl. tos or ti (te) Mu position for an orchestra and one or more solo infi typically in three movements. [Ital., concert.; See of typically in three movements. Ital., concert jet of concert gross so (gross so (gross so n., pl. concert gross illowards a full orchestra. [Ital.; concerto; concert of the concert pltch n. 1. Mus. See international pltch. 23 of being ready, and tensely alert (act being ready) and tensely alert (act being ready).

con cee; slon; (kan-sesh / an), and 1... The act folder act fold mission, 3.-A grant of a tract of land, as by a govern-return for stipulated services or a promise that the be used for a specific purpose. 4.a. The privilent training a subsidiary business within certain premise space allotted for such a business: C. The business , space anorted not such a pusiness; i.e. the outsiness of the concessio, concession, concession, concession, concession, concess, p.p.aril, deregato, concest, Seegoneeps, confices delegator confices sion; ar/y (;s&sh(a-něr/c)) adj. confices sion; alre, (kan-s&sh(a-něr/c)) n. The holder are tor of a concession [Fr. concessionnaire < concession cession < Lat. concessio. See concession.] con-ces-sion-er (kan-sesh/a-nar) n. A concessional con·ces·sion·es (kon-ses/iv);adj.-1. Of the natural ing.a. concession. Z. Gram: Expressing concession. conch (kongk, konch) n., pl. conchs (kongks) of ... (kon/chiz).-1. Any, of various tropical marine;gatty conches the genera Strombus and Cassis/hall. lusks, esp. of the genera Strombus and Cassis, his often brightly colored spiral shells and edible life often brightly colored spiral shells and edible life shell of one of these gastropod mollusks, used [1] ment, in making cameos, or as a horn. 3. Anati St. [ME conche] OFr. Lat. concha, mussel (1] Con-cha (köng | ka) m. pl. chae (kč.). 1. Anati Anj structures that resemble, a shell in shape. 2. Archively concern a page III at semidome. Lat. musif structures that resemble a shell in shape. 2. Arching dome over an apse. [LLat.; semidome. Lat.; mutdone.] — con/chal (-kal) adj. 8, 357 [Arching dome.] con chife er ous (kong-kif or os) adj. Having of king of Ulster who abducted Deirdreicon chol dal (kong-koid/l) adj: Of relating to, or face, characterized by smooth shell-like, convenition cavities: [<| Gk: konkhoeides, mussellike: konkho + n-eidēs, n-oeidēs, n-oid.] n-con, chol! dal · ly, adv. con · chol · o · gy (kŏng-kŏl / ɔ-jē) n. The branch of h deals with the study; of mollusks and shells:::: cont. l-cal. (-kp-lö). / i-ks). add; .-- con chol. or glst ... con clerge (kôn-syarzh //). n., 1. A staff member of the control of the co apartment complex who assists guests or residential son, esp. in France, who lives in an apartment h the entrance, and serves as a janitor. [Fr. < OF VLat. .: conservius, alteration of Lat. conservus, li com-, com- + servus, slave.] A The state of con-con-con-con-sil/c-or), adj. Of, relating to join a council, | < lat. concilium, council. See council con-cil. | ate. (kan-sil/e-āt/) v.-at.ed. -at.ing. 11. To, overcome the distrust of animosity of on regain or try, to regain (friendship or goodwill) behavior. 3. To make or try, to make compatible

.= intr.:To gain or try to gain friendship or good at pacify. [Lat.: conciliare, conciliar- < concilium]



conch